



House of Representatives

File No. 923

General Assembly

January Session, 2009

(Reprint of File No. 97)

Substitute House Bill No. 5519
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "B"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 8, 2009

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION PREMIUMS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE COMPANIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) On or before October 1, 2009, the
2 rating organization licensed pursuant to section 38a-672 of the general
3 statutes shall file with the Insurance Commissioner a method of
4 calculating workers' compensation premiums for volunteer staff which
5 does not base such premium calculation primarily on the number of
6 ambulances owned by the municipality or volunteer ambulance
7 service. Such method shall be based primarily on ambulance usage
8 and shall apply to workers' compensation insurance policies issued or
9 renewed on or after October 1, 2009. Ambulance usage shall be
10 determined by the estimated number of calls responded to annually.
11 For purposes of this section, "municipality or volunteer ambulance
12 service" means a volunteer organization or municipality licensed by
13 the Commissioner of Public Health to transport patients.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Various Municipalities	Indeterminate	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill requires that the method of calculating workers' compensation premiums for volunteer staff does not primarily base such premium calculations on the number of ambulances owned by the municipality or volunteer ambulance service.

The bill may result in a savings to certain municipalities if the new method for calculating the workers' compensation insurance policy formula for municipal or volunteer ambulance services results in lower workers' compensation premiums.

House "B" struck the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact. The substitute language results in the fiscal impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5519 (as amended by House "B")******AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION PREMIUMS
AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE COMPANIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the state-licensed workers' compensation risk rating organization to file with the insurance commissioner a method of computing workers' compensation premiums for volunteer staff of municipal or volunteer ambulance services that does not base the premium primarily on the number of ambulances the service owns. The bill requires the method to be based primarily on ambulance usage as determined by the estimated annual number of service call responses. The new method applies to workers' compensation policies issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2009.

The bill defines municipal or volunteer ambulance services as a volunteer organization or municipality that the public health commissioner licensed to transport patients.

*House Amendment "B" (1) eliminates the language in the original bill (File 97) prohibiting premium calculation methods that discriminate against or penalize ambulance services solely because of the number of ambulances owned and replaces it with the prohibition on premiums based primarily on the number of ambulances, (2) defines "ambulance usage" as the estimated number of annual calls, and (3) specifies the new premium calculation method applies to volunteer staff.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage and applicable to policies issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2009.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/05/2009)

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/26/2009)

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (04/13/2009)